



Fair Political Practices Commission

428 J Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA 95814

www.fppc.ca.gov



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
March 27, 2003

Contact: Sigrid Bathen
(916) 322-7761

Liane Randolph returns to FPPC as chair, assumes duties April 10

Brings 'unique perspective' as city attorney, advising on conflicts, election law

Liane Randolph, appointed earlier this week by Gov. Gray Davis to head the Fair Political Practices Commission, brings extensive experience as a former staff attorney for the FPPC and as a city attorney advising public officials on the complexities of the Political Reform Act which established the FPPC in 1974. She joins the commission on April 10.

"I am pleased and honored to serve as chair of the commission," she said. "I bring a unique perspective to the position, as a former staff counsel for the FPPC and as a city attorney who has advised local officials on a daily basis about the complex regulations which govern their actions."

She said she is especially interested in further simplifying the conflict-of-interest rules which have evolved over the nearly three decades since the Political Reform Act was passed. The commission recently concluded a major revision of the conflict rules and continues to work to streamline those regulations.

Randolph, 37, was a staff attorney in the Legal Division of the FPPC from 1995-97, providing advice on conflict-of-interest issues to public officials and representing the commission in litigation on matters of campaign finance. She has advised the City of San Leandro as city attorney since 2000 and as assistant city attorney from 1997-2000. She also served as city attorney for Suisun City and advised several cities, including Petaluma, Healdsburg and Suisun City, on redevelopment matters.

She has been a Principal in the Oakland law firm of Meyers, Nave, Riback, Silver and Wilson since 2000, serving as the firm's expert on ethics and conflicts of interest. She joined the firm in 1997 as an associate. From 1994-95, she practiced election and campaign finance law with the San Leandro firm of Remcho, Johansen and Purcell and practiced commercial litigation from 1993-94 with the Los Angeles firm of Manatt, Phelps and Phillips.

A native of Los Angeles, Randolph received her Bachelor's degree in history from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1990, and her Juris Doctorate from UCLA Law School in 1993.

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She is an adjunct professor at the University of San Francisco in the College of Professional Studies.

Her husband, Christopher Kelley, an attorney specializing in patent law, is a partner in the firm of Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White, in Menlo Park. They are the parents of a son, two-year-old Seth. The family lives in Oakland.

Randolph will be the only fulltime, salaried member of the five-person commission, an independent, bipartisan agency employing approximately 75 attorneys, investigators, political reform consultants and other staff. The FPPC administers and enforces the Political Reform Act's rules on conflicts of interest, campaign contributions and expenditures and lobbying disclosure. Commissioners are appointed by the governor (who makes two appointments, including the chair), the attorney general, the secretary of state and the controller.

She succeeds Karen A. Getman, who was appointed on March 15, 1999.

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